

Urban District Council of Basildon

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

PATRICK X. O'DWYER, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.,

including the Report of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

A. L. LEDDEN, M.A.P.H.I.

For the year 1960

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For the year 1960

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health:

PATRICK X. O'DWYER, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health: (Part-time)

JAMES GORMAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspectorate:

Chief Public Health Inspector A. L. LEDDEN, M.A.P.H.I.

*Deputy Chief
Public Health Inspector* M. A. LARGE, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

District Public Health Inspector M. J. DESMOND, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.
W. S. BIGGINS, M.A.P.H.I.

(Resigned 31st October, 1960)

B. S. HARRAWAY, M.A.P.H.I.,

J. E. HILLIER, M.A.P.H.I.

(Commenced 1st December, 1960)

Clerical Staff:

Senior Clerk ... Miss V. M. HAMBLETON

Clerks ... Mrs. E. M. BOOTH
Mrs. J. PENNY

Rodent Operative:

L. A. MAY

Public Analysts:

J. HUBERT HAMENCE, M.Sc., Ph.D., F.R.I.C.

P. S. HALL, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
HIGH STREET,
BILLERICAY.

Telephone :
Billericay 1800/3

To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Basildon.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year 1960.

It is a record of the expanding work of the Department in a year during which much of my own and my senior clerical staff's time and energy were absorbed by the preparatory work in connexion with the Delegation of Health, Welfare, and Education Functions under the Local Government Act, 1958, and the arrangements for moving the Health Department to new accommodation. That so much has been achieved in conditions of abnormal strain must be regarded as a tribute to the members of my staff. To all of them I express my gratitude for their loyalty in time of stress.

I am indebted to the Members of the Council for their support in connexion with the Department's activities throughout the year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

PATRICK X. O'DWYER.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	27,020
Registrar General's Estimate of the Mid-year Home population	...	...	...	...	...	84,070
Number of inhabited houses at 31st December, 1960 according to Rate Books	...	...	...	...	...	27,467
Rateable value at 31st December, 1960	...	...	...	...	...	£928,756
Sum represented by a penny rate at 31st December, 1960 (estimated)	...	...	...	...	...	£3,575

VITAL STATISTICS

<i>Live Births</i>		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	
Legitimate	...	1,103	957	2,060	
Illegitimate	...	25	32	57	2,117
Total Birth Rate, Legitimate and Illegitimate, per 1,000 of the estimated population	...		Crude Rate		25.18
			Adjusted Rate		*20.64

Still Births

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live and still births (Male 20, Female 21)	18.99
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<i>Deaths</i>		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	
Total number of deaths	...	349	319	668	
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	...		Crude Rate		7.94
			Adjusted Rate		*10.16

Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion

Infant Mortality

	Nos. of Infant deaths.	Rates per 1,000 live births.	Legit- imate Infants	Rates per 1,000 leg- itimate live births.	Illeg- itimate Infants.	Rates per 1,000 il- legitimate live births.
Under 1 week of age	M. 14 F. 10		M. 14 F. 9		M. - F. 1	
	T. 24	11.33	T. 23	11.16	T. 1	17.54
Under 4 weeks of age	M. 16 F. 12		M. 15 F. 11		M. 1 F. 1	
	T. 28	13.22	T. 26	12.62	T. 2	35.08
Under 1 year of age	M. 21 F. 16		M. 20 F. 15		M. 1 F. 1	
	T. 37	17.47	T. 35	16.99	T. 2	35.08

Deaths from certain Diseases

		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Malignant neoplasm	...	72	77	149
Measles	...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	—	—	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	—	—	—

Deaths from Violent Causes

There were twenty-six deaths of this nature of which eight were the result of motor vehicle accidents and seven were classified as suicides.

*COMPARABILITY FACTORS:

Births	...	0.82	Deaths	...	1.28
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SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Hospital and Clinic Services

The district is in the area of North-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board for hospital and specialist consultant services, within the area of the Essex Executive Committee for general practitioner services, and the Essex County Council is the Local Health Authority and School Health Authority for personal health services for expectant and nursing mothers, infants and schoolchildren, and those of all ages suffering from mental ill health. The County Council also provides an ambulance service for all needs.

The main hospital in the district is St. Andrew's, Stock Road, Billericay, a large general hospital dealing with all types of medical and surgical conditions. General hospitals at Southend and other adjacent areas also admit patients from Basildon. The number of general practitioners with addresses in the district is still increasing and other doctors outside our boundaries have patients in Basildon.

The County Council has the following six Health Centres in the district, the first four being purpose built.

Craylands Health Centre, Timberlog Lane, Basildon.

Tel. No. Vange 2166

Pitsea Health Centre, The Broadway, High Road, Pitsea.

Tel. No. Vange 2275

Laindon Health Centre, Florence Road, Laindon.

Tel. No. Laindon 3161

Billericay Health Centre, Laindon Road, Billericay.

Tel. No. Billericay 423

Wickford Health Centre, Nevendon Road, Wickford.

Tel. No. Wickford 3364

Basildon Health Centre, 119 Honeypot Lane, Basildon.

Tel. No. Basildon 20088

At each of these Centres there are clinic sessions for expectant mothers, infant welfare schoolchildren, etc., and details of these may be had on application to the Centre, each of which has one or more Health Visitors who call upon mothers in their own homes in addition to giving advice at the Centres.

A Tuberculosis Care Association exists in the area for the purpose of helping sufferers from this disease. The Hon. Secretary is Miss J. A. Blanks, "Greyfriars," Highlands Avenue, Vange.

School Careers Exhibition

Recruitment of Public Health Inspectors

The department was represented at a one day careers exhibition held at a local school and at short notice the Public Health Inspectors themselves devised and constructed a showcase in which illuminated colour slides depicting the work of a Public Health Inspector were displayed. The exhibit elicited much favourable comment. The slides were a selection from the series produced by the Inspectors in connection with their Health Education talks and the display was in my view well conceived and presented.

The Inspectors are to be commended for their initiative in this effort.

In so far as recruitment to the profession is concerned, however, it is surely inevitable that a substantial improvement in the national salary scales must be made to encourage school leavers of the right calibre to obtain the necessary qualifications for appointment.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supplies

All mains water in the Urban District is now supplied by the Southend Waterworks Company although the Company continues to obtain water from the South Essex Waterworks Company for the Langdon Hills area.

The water drawn from Langford and Hanningfield reservoirs was subjected to daily examination and water from boreholes and wells was analysed each fortnight by the Company's resident chemists. Both chemical and bacteriological examination showed the water going into supply to be satisfactory, and free from plumbo-solvency.

There was no contamination of water supplied to consumers during the year.

In addition three check samples were taken by the Public Health Inspectors from consumers taps in the District upon which the Analyst commented as follows:—

“ This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The hardness of the water is very moderate and it contains no excess of mineral or saline constituents in solution. It is of satisfactory organic quality and bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.”

The Waterworks Company undertook extensions to mains totalling 14 miles 769 yards, the third highest figure recorded in my reports.

This was made up as follows:—

Diameter in inches			Miles	Yards
3	...	...	—	1161
4	...	...	6	947
6	...	...	2	1137
9	...	...	3	1044

Although extensions within Basildon New Town account for a considerable portion of this the Council are progressing with a policy to make a main water supply available to all houses where this is economically possible and a standpipe supply within 200 yards of the most scattered development, and to this end approved their third main water scheme during the year.

During 1960 1,659 properties were connected to the water main and of 27,467 inhabited dwellings listed in the Council's rate books, 26,425 are now supplied with mains water.

In addition 283 persons rent keys to public standpipes.

Water Deliveries to Rainwater Storage Tanks

Eighty-four properties were supplied with water and a total number of 108,700 gallons delivered.

Paddling Pools

Nine samples were taken from paddling pools in two of the Council's parks and advice given regarding the correct chlorination of the water to maintain its satisfactory condition.

Drainage & Sewerage

Work on the Buttsbury High Level Sewerage Scheme commenced on the 29th April and is scheduled to be completed in September 1961. The laying of sewers in many streets was completed, but connections were only available to properties in Outwood Common Road (between Greenways and Norsey Road) and Deerbank Road, Billericay, where the sewers have their own outfalls. Sewers in the other streets will become available for connection upon completion of the Potash Road Pumping Station which is scheduled for May, 1961.

Good progress has been made on Nevendon Road Area (Wickford) Sewerage Scheme and the sewers were virtually completed, together with the wells to the pumping station and the rising main. Construction of the pumping station superstructure prior to the installation of the pumping machinery was commenced. Mount Road rising main was completed and work commenced on the erection of the Ejector Station.

The work on the extension to the Outwood Common Sewerage Treatment works advanced well despite the difficult working conditions during the summer and it is expected that it will be brought into use in August, 1961.

The Billericay North West area storm water sewerage scheme Part I (from the western end of the Industrial Estate to Perry Street, Billericay) was commenced and is scheduled to be completed in February 1961.

Number of new premises connected to the sewer during the year 1278

Number of old premises connected to the sewer during the year 135

Nuisances

Complaints received by the Department during the year included several concerning nuisance by smell, noise and flies from premises used for the keeping of pigs or poultry.

With the rapid growth of residential development, some areas, which a few years ago were semi-rural in character, have become more densely populated and it is inevitable that complaints will be received about conditions which hitherto had caused grievance to no one.

While it is felt that a certain degree of tolerance should be exercised, if only temporarily, by new residents in the case of this type of nuisance it is also true to say that pig keepers and poultry breeders will have to expect to exercise increasingly strict hygienic methods. By and large this has been achieved in the cases brought to our notice and the advice of

Inspectors regarding the covering of manure pending removal, the maintenance of clean premises, improved drainage arrangements and the use of scientific methods for minimising smell from swill boiling apparatus has been accepted with the effect that so far it has not been necessary, happily, to resort to legal procedure.

It has long been recognised by the Chief Public Health Inspector and myself that in cases involving complaints between neighbours every effort should be made to effect an amicable solution without litigation and the District Inspectors are urged to exercise diplomacy and tact in bringing this about. A spirit of give and take and an appreciation of the other fellow's problems goes farther toward the achievement of contented co-existence than does the proof in court of the legal rights of the matter, although such action would in the majority of instances prove the easier course for us to take. Yet some, no doubt, mistake this attitude for needless procrastination. Complaints were also received from residents living near certain ponds in the New Town area. The condition of these ponds, it was alleged, was such as to constitute a nuisance and a physical danger to children who saw in them an ideal playground. These ponds are owned by the Basildon Development Corporation and most are scheduled for retention as landscaped features, a plan with which I have a certain sympathy. The ponds are sprayed to prevent mosquito breeding and the Corporation erect fencing with the object of keeping children out. However, landscaping of ponds should be phased to coincide with the residential development of the neighbourhood and it was necessary to support a complaint regarding one particular pond known as Basildon Hall Moat which was in a foul condition with the fences broken down and in my opinion, constituted a statutory nuisance. The Council authorised the service of a statutory notice if this should be found necessary, for the abatement of this condition and the Basildon Development Corporation put forward a proposal to drain and grass the area as soon as contractors were available to undertake the work.

Noise Abatement Act

This Act came into operation 27th November, 1960 and the Public Health Inspectors were authorised to administer its provisions. Previously complaints of noise had been investigated under the Essex County Council Act and one complaint, among several received during the year of more routine character, related to the roaring of a lioness kept as a pet. Following complaints concerning the excessive use of chimes all known mobile ice-cream vendors in the District were warned that the Council would consider taking legal action if the noisy hawking continued.

Rodent Control

Complaints of infestation by rats and mice in private dwellinghouses totalled 305 during the year and treatment was carried out free of charge to the occupiers.

A service to 63 business premises was provided on a rechargeable basis.

Treatment of the sewerage system throughout the district and of the Council's pumping stations, depot, sewerage works and refuse tip was regularly maintained and in all a total of 3,089 visits were made by the Rodent Operative in the course of his duties.

Destruction of Wasps Nests

The Council have agreed to extend a service to the public for the destruction of wasps nests free of charge and in the course of the season 145 nests were destroyed.

Disinfestation

Twenty-five premises infested with bed bugs or fleas were cleared during this year.

Public Cleansing

The Council's Engineer and Surveyor has kindly supplied the following notes relating to the cleansing services:—

Conditions at the Pitsea Marsh Tip have been generally satisfactory. By the end of December 1960, a regular weekly house to house refuse collection was being made from 25,995 properties and 116 trade premises 50 of these situated in Basildon New Town and Neighbouring shopping areas, receiving a twice weekly collection. Owing to the impracticability of the Council's collecting vehicles travelling with safety over unmade private streets, the maintenance of 108 communal bin sites serving such streets continues.

Street Cleansing

Mechanical cleansing of highways continues reinforced by manual sweeping as necessary. A total of 6,651 miles of road was swept.

Cesspool Cleansing

A total of 1,309 cesspools were the subject of cesspool cleansing agreements at the end of December 1960 and during the year 2,694 cesspools were cleansed involving the collection and disposal of approximately four million gallons of sewage.

Agriculture (Safety, Health & Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956.

In order to ascertain whether adequate sanitary conveniences were available to workers as required by the Act, 87 farms in the district were visited and, in 10 cases, informal notices served where facilities were inadequate.

SMOKE CONTROL

Basildon Smoke Control Area No. 1

This area has been regarded by the Council as a pilot scheme and observations have been kept by the Health Inspectors to ascertain infringements of the law with a view to the discovery of difficulties so

that advice may be given to householders rather than the consideration of legal proceedings.

Seven cases of smoke emission from private households were, however, reported to the Council and letters sent to the occupiers warning them of the risk of proceedings if the use of unauthorised fuel continued, adequate time for the burning of existing stocks of bituminous fuel having elapsed.

In general, however, the order was received and implemented without obstruction and with little comment.

It is hoped the Council will now consider periodic extensions to this area to embrace the whole of the new development in Basildon.

Section 3 Clean Air Act, 1956.

Applications for prior approval:

Five applications for the Council's approval to new boiler installations were received and all were approved. In the case of one application, which was considered to present special problems, a second opinion was obtained from the National Industrial Fuel Efficiency Service. The remaining four applications were dealt with by my staff.

In one installation an informal objection was made to the Architects concerning the proposed chimney height, and after discussion, agreement was reached regarding a satisfactory height to ensure adequate dispersal of flue gases.

Notification of the installation of new furnaces

In addition to the above, notification of the installation of four new boilers was received. In these cases brief details of the plant were requested from the heating engineers and in no case was it considered necessary for any special comment to be made.

Factories

During the year two new factories were completed on the Nevendon Industrial Estate, bringing the total as at 31st December, 1960, to 61. Further factory development was commenced on the new Billericay Industrial Site and the total number of factories listed in the department's register at the end of the year was 211 including three slaughterhouses.

Towards the end of the year responsibility for the issue of certificates as to means of escape in case of fire was transferred to the Essex Fire Brigade, Fire Prevention Department, Childhaven, Rayleigh Road, Hutton.

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS OF THE ADMINISTRATION
OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1957

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health, (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	12	9	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	197	129	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	2	—	—	—
TOTAL	211	138	—	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of Cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	1	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	—	1	—	—	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

Nature of Work	Section 110				Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions	
Wearing apparel—Making	92	—	—	—	—	—	
Household Linen ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	
Brass & Brass Articles ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	
Artificial flowers ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	
Brush Making ..	5	—	—	—	—	—	
Basket Making ..	8	—	—	—	—	—	
Christmas crackers ..	160	—	—	—	—	—	
Lampshades ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	
TOTAL ..	272	—	—	—	—	—	

INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Visits carried out by Public Health Inspectors:

Dwellinghouses with respect to:

Defects under Public Health and Housing Acts	916
Water supply	137
Rehousing (living conditions of applicants)	602
Housing Management	18
Dustbins	54
Sewer Connections	117
Infectious Disease	65
Social Welfare	36
Housing Repairs and Rents Act	12
Standard Improvement Grant	164

Premises with respect to:

Vermin	31
Rats and Mice	6
Nuisances under Public Health Act	1,172
Manufacture and storage of ice cream	41
Distribution and sale of milk	64
Massage and Special Treatment	3
Hairdressing	1
Overcrowding	4

Factories and Workshops	138
Food Shops and Stalls	1,137
Shops under the Shops Act	10
Pet Shops	4
Hawkers	223
Moveable dwellings	4
Houseboats	11
Watercourses	111
Clean Air Act	128
Slaughterhouses	745
Bacteriological sampling	311
Food sampling	221
Diseases of Animals	15
Farms (Safety and Welfare)	95
Health Education	5
Miscellaneous	239

6,840

SECTION D

HOUSING

Development

The year's housing development brought a total addition of 1,941 houses throughout the District. Of these the Basildon Development Corporation completed 1,193 new properties, 85 were erected by the Council while private enterprise yielded 663 new dwellings.

As at 26th December, 1960, the number of dwellings owned by the Basildon Development Corporation was 9,116 occupied by a total population of 27,829.

Slum Clearance Programme

Action was taken regarding a further 56 properties during the year with the result that 10 orders for demolition were made, six properties were made subject to Closing orders and in three cases undertakings from the owners were accepted by the Council.

As a result of works being carried out in accordance with schedules previously submitted by their owners six properties were made fit. 31 dwellings were demolished during the year.

Housing repairs

Complaints relating to defective housing conditions numbered 51. These were satisfactorily dealt with by action under the appropriate sections of the Public Health Act with one exception where the defects were of such character as to require action under the Housing Act. In 14 cases it was necessary to serve statutory notices to obtain the execution of the required repairs; the remainder were concluded satisfactorily by informal action. No legal proceedings were taken.

Rehousing

The Housing Department received a further 307 new applications for Council houses, 46 of which were from aged persons; 145 families were rehoused during the year.

Certificates of Disrepair

Applications received in 1960	...	...	...	...	1
Certificates issued	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Certificates revoked upon completion of repairs	...				1
Decisions not to issue certificate	...	...	...	...	1
Total number of applications received since the coming into operation of the Act	...	...	...	...	23

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Food and Drugs Administration

In the course of the year 220 samples were submitted to the Public Analyst who commented adversely on 10 samples.

The following table shows the range of articles sampled:

<i>Articles sampled</i>	<i>No. examined</i>	<i>No. found to be genuine</i>	<i>No. found to be adulterated or under standard</i>
Almonds	1	1	
Beef & Kidney Pie	1	1	
Butter	2	2	
Butter Beans	1	1	
Black Currant Vitamin C Drink	2	2	
Brandy	1	1	
Cascara Tablets	1	1	
Caramelle	1	1	
Cheese Wafers	1	1	
Cheese Twisties	1		1
Cheese Biscuits	1	1	
Cheese Sandwich	1	1	
Cheeselets	1	1	
Cheebix	1	1	
Chicken Breast	1	1	
Chicken Pie	1	1	
Chicklettes	1	1	
Christmas Pudding	1	1	
Chocolate Mousse	1	1	
Chocolate Ginger	1	1	
Citric Acid	1	1	
Cornflour	1	1	
Coffee Milk Chocolate	1		1
Coffee & Chicory Mix	1	1	
Clove Cordial	1	1	
Cream	3	3	
Custard Powder	1	1	
Cream Milk Block	1	1	
Currants	2	2	
Cough Mixture	1	1	
Coconut, Desiccated	1	1	
Cream Cheese	1	1	
Diarrhoea Mixture	1	1	
Figs, Dried	1	1	
Flour	3	3	
Fruit, Mixed Dried	3	3	
Fruit Drink	1	1	
Frankfurters	1	1	
Fruit Sponge Pudding	1	1	

<i>Articles sampled</i>	<i>No. examined</i>	<i>No. found to be genuine</i>	<i>No. found to be adulterated or under standard</i>
Gelatine	1	1	
Glycerine, Lemon & Honey ...	2	2	
Ginger Wine	1	1	
Gin	2	2	
Ham Sausage	1	1	
Hamburger Patties	1	1	
Hamburger Sausage Meat ...	1		1
Honey	1	1	
Ice Cream	6	6	
Ice Lolly Syrup	1	1	
Icing	1	1	
Lemon Juice	1	1	
Lentils	1	1	
Linseed, Liquorice & Chloroform	1	1	
Lystone Salts	1	1	
Margarine	2	2	
Milk	55	55	
Milk Channel Island	5	4	1
Milk Condensed	1	1	
Marzipan	2	2	
Meat Pudding	1	1	
Maple Syrup	1	1	
Mikky	1	1	
Mincemeat	1	1	
Na-Choc	1	1	
Orange Squash	1	1	
Oatmeal	1	1	
Pork Pies	15	15	
Peel Mixed	1	1	
Picnic Paste	1	1	
Puff Pastry	1	1	
Rice, Ground	2	2	
Rice, Creamed	1	1	
Rum Flavour	1	1	
Ruby Wine	2	2	
Rum	1	1	
Sausages	10	7	3
Scampi Curry	1	1	
Soup Cream of Chicken ...	1	1	
Steak Pies	6	6	
Steak & Kidney Pies	11	11	
Suet, Shredded Beef	1	1	
Sauce	1	1	
Salmon Fish Cakes	1	1	
Steak, Minced	1	1	
Sage & Onion Stuffing ...	1	1	
Suet Pudding Mix	1	1	
Sweets & Confectionery ...	3	1	2
Sherry	3	3	
Tapioca	1	1	

<i>Articles sampled</i>	<i>No. examined</i>	<i>No. found to be genuine</i>	<i>No. found to be adulterated or under standard</i>
Tartaric Acid	1	1	
Tincture of Quinine	1	1	
Vinegar, Malt	3	3	
Vintage Wine	1		1
White Wine	1	1	
White Sauce	1	1	
Whisky	2	2	
Yoghourt	1	1	
	<hr/> 220 <hr/>	<hr/> 210 <hr/>	<hr/> 10 <hr/>

NON-GENUINE SAMPLES.

Details concerning non-genuine samples, and action taken, are set out below.

INF.103/60—Cheese Twisties

A sample of this commodity was submitted to the Public Analyst for examination and for his opinion regarding a satisfactory form of labelling to meet the requirements of the Labelling of Food Order, 1953. In view of the low percentage of cheese in the ingredients it was considered necessary to recommend a modified form of labelling for this product.

INF.104/60—Irish Coffee Milk Chocolate

The Public Analyst commented adversely on the labelling of this product. The general inference from the label, in his opinion, was that the chocolate contained a larger quantity of whisky than was borne out by the analysis. The matter was taken up with the Manufacturers who agreed to amend the wording of the label.

F.74/60—Hamburger Sausage Meat

This sample, a follow-up informal sample, was found to contain only 64% meat, a percentage which was still, in the opinion of the Public Analyst, low in meat content for an article described as Hamburger Sausage Meat. A further letter was sent to the Manufacturers expressing disappointment that their product continued to fall below the standard expected. Further investigations will be made into this product.

F.38/60—Channel Island Milk

This sample contained 3.57% of milk fat representing a fat deficiency of 10% of the minimum quantity proper for Channel Islands milk. Since in order to complete his analysis the Public Analyst requested the use of the third part of the sample, legal proceedings could not be instituted in this case. A further sample was subsequently taken from the same dairyman and found to be satisfactory.

INF.60/60, F.65/60, F.86/60—Pork Sausages

These sausages, samples of different grades from the same manufacturer, were considered by the Public Analyst to be deficient in meat to the extent of 23%, 16% and 18% respectively. In the absence of any legal standard regarding meat content no legal proceedings were taken, it being decided to await with interest the decision of the Local Authorities Joint Advisory Committee on Food Standards regarding the meat content of suasages.

INF.80/60—Rum and Butter Sweets

Upon examination the Public Analyst found these sweets to contain insufficient butterfat to justify the description "Rum and Butter Sweets". The matter was taken up with the makers when it was found that their own labels advertising the commodity were correctly worded "Rum and Butter flavoured", but that the retailer had not been using the makers' label. This matter was satisfactorily dealt with informally.

INF.70/60—Vintage Wine

This sample of wine was found to contravene the Labelling of Foods Order as the label failed to declare the alcoholic strength of the wine or the nature of the fruit from which the wine had been prepared. The question of the proper labelling of the product was taken up with the Manufacturers and with the Kent County Council in whose area the wine was bottled. It was finally agreed with the Manufacturers that future labels would describe the product as a vintage cider.

FOOD COMPLAINTS

Thirty-nine food complaints were received during the year, being complaints of food in dirty containers; food containing foreign bodies or food which was alleged to be unsound or otherwise not of the nature demanded. The Council considered it to be in the public interest to institute legal proceedings in eight cases.

After full investigation the Department was unable, in several cases, to discover sufficient reason to justify further action. Taking this into account the number of food complaints in the year under review bore favourable comparison with that recorded in 1959 when forty-seven complaints were reported and legal proceedings taken in eighteen cases.

Food Complaints referred to the Public Analyst

<i>Article</i>	<i>Analyst's report</i>	<i>Action taken</i>
Tin stewed steak containing foreign body.	" Foreign body " consisted of animal hide with hairs still attached.	Warning letters sent to both Importers and Manufacturers.
Table jelly containing foreign matter.	Consisted of oily matter emulsified with a fragment of jelly.	Attention of the Manufacturers drawn to the complaint.
Loaf of white bread containing brown streak.	Caused by admixture of brown flour.	No action.
Flour containing foreign matter.	Small quantity of pastry adhering to some greyish black fibrous lumps which consisted of atmospheric dirt containing vegetable fibres, hemp and jute. No evidence of rodent excreta.	No action.
Tin of carrots containing foreign matter.	Foreign matter consisted of mould growth.	Suitable letter addressed to Manufacturers.
Loaf of bread containing foreign matter.	Consisted of discoloured flour mixed with some charred dough and traces of grit, iron and mineral oil.	Warning letter sent to Bakers.
Bread roll containing foreign matter.	Found to be a coherent rubbery mass and consisted of dirty dough with some vegetable fibres, mineral oil and slight traces of iron.	Warning letter sent to Bakers.
Contaminated Mineral water.	Contaminated nature of a taint unsuitable for human consumption.	Matter taken up with Manufacturers.
Loaf of bread containing Insect.	Insect identified as a large moth-type which might have gained access through open window.	Bakers required to effect fly proofing of windows.
Loaf of bread containing foreign matter.	Dirty dough containing traces of iron and mineral oil.	Warning letter to Company.
Biscuits containing black foreign object.	Charred dough.	No action.
Maggots in tin of baby food.	Larvae and insect webbing —found to be brown house moth.	Warning letter to Manufacturers.
Cereal, carton of which was chewed.	No evidence of rodents or rodent excreta.	No action.
Macaroni containing dead flies.	Dead flies identified as lesser housefly. Unsuitable for human consumption.	Legal proceedings instituted. Vendor fined £5 with £2 2s. 0d. costs

Food Complaints referred to the Public Analyst—contd.

Loaf containing greyish matter.	Examination showed dis- coloured dough to consist of particles of dust with traces of iron.	No action.
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Food Complaints where analysis was not required

<i>Article</i>	<i>Action</i>
Sweet containing piece of metal.	Warning letters sent to Retailers and Manufacturers.
School milk—dirty bottle.	Warning letter sent to bottlers.
Dirty milk bottle.	Warning letter sent to bottlers.
Alleged glass in one-third pint bottle of School milk.	Inconclusive evidence—no action
Mouldy Hamburgers.	Warning letter sent to Suppliers and Manufacturers.
Dirty milk bottle.	Legal proceedings instituted. Dairy Company fined £30 with costs.
Tin of Corned Beef affected with mould.	Warning letter sent to Retailers.
Foreign bodies in milk.	Warning letter to Retailer.
Dirty milk bottle.	Legal proceedings instituted—case dismissed.
Mouldy Apple Turnovers.	Warning letter to Retailer.
Mouldy steak and kidney pie.	Warning letter to Retailer.
Dirty milk bottle.	Legal proceedings instituted. Dairy Company fined £10 with costs.
Glass in milk.	Legal proceedings instituted. Dairy Company fined £20 with costs.
Insects in bread.	Referred to Local Authority in whose area the purchase was made.
Maggot in bacon.	Legal proceedings instituted. Retailer fined £5.
Maggots in box of chocolates.	Referred to Local Authority in whose area chocolates purchased.
Jellied Eels alleged to be unsound.	Considered by Council—no action.
Dirty milk bottle.	Evidence inconclusive—no action
Foreign body in milk.	Evidence inconclusive—no action
Foreign body in milk.	Considered by Council—no action.
Bread roll containing wire.	Legal proceedings instituted—case dismissed.
Milk containing extraneous matter.	Legal proceedings instituted. Dairy Company fined £50 with £3 3s. 0d. costs.
Unfit precooked Pork.	Evidence inconclusive—no action
Unfit Chicken.	Evidence inconclusive—no action

Milk and Dairies

The number of licences issued by the Council during the year was as follows :

Pasteuriser's	...	...	...	...	1
Distributors (selling pasteurised milk)					78
Supplementary (Pasteurised)			...		5
Distributors (selling sterilised milk)	...				123
Supplementary (sterilised)	...	...			5
Distributors (selling T.T. milk)	...				49
Supplementary (T.T. milk)	...	...			5

Milk pasteurising and bottling plant

Visits to the dairy were paid by the Public Health Inspectors each week and samples of milk, churn rinsings and bottle rinsings were regularly taken for bacteriological examination.

During the year the dairy company progressed with improvements to the premises and plant and the installation of mechanical exhaust fans for the extraction of steam from the churn washing section was completed. An additional oil fired economic boiler with an evaporation of 4,000 lbs/hour was installed to meet the increased demand for steam and water softening plant capable of treating 45,000 gallons between regenerations was installed to supply the two boilers and processing plant. The capacity of the pasteurising plant was increased from 1,200 to 1,750 gallons per hour and chilled water was substituted as a cooling medium in place of the calcium chloride brine previously used.

Further improvements will include the installation of a new bottle washer and filler complete with fully automatic de-crating and re-crating apparatus with a capacity of 12,000 bottles per hour.

Details of samples taken for bacteriological examination are as follows :

Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	72
Sterilised		...	...	...	8
T.T. farm bottled	...	...	...		2
T.T. (Pasteurised)	...	...	...		71
Channel Island (Pasteurised)			...		34
Churn Rinsings	...	...	...		66
Bottle Rinsings	...	...	...		66
					<hr/> 319 <hr/>

Ice Cream Sampling

Seventy-nine samples of ice-cream were taken for bacteriological examination of which thirteen were considered unsatisfactory and were the subject of further investigation. The high proportion of poor results underlines the value of routine sampling of this kind and demonstrates the continued need for vigilance and advice by the Inspectors.

The most common cause for samples falling into Grades III and IV was found to be inadequate use of a suitable sterilising agent for the serving utensils.

Results of samples taken :—

Grade I	...	52
Grade II	...	6
Grade III	...	8
Grade IV	...	13

Registered Food Premises

Eight new applications for registration of premises for the manufacture of preserved food were received and approved bringing the total number in the Department's register to 95.

Essex County Council Act, 1952, Section 103

Seventeen additional persons were approved as hawkers of food bringing the total registered by the Council to 52.

Desiccated Coconut

Six samples of raw desiccated coconut were taken from certain bakeries and canteens within the District for bacteriological examination as a check for the presence of bacteria of the Salmonella Group. In every case the samples were found to be free of pathogenic organisms.

Food Premises

Regular visits to all types of food shops, vehicles and stalls, were maintained throughout the year by the Public Health Inspectors, a total of 1,137 visits being made.

Every effort was made to induce shopkeepers to provide and maintain not merely the minimum statutory facilities required by the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1960, but to adopt Food Hygiene Codes of Practice issued by the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food wherever practicable.

Habits of a life-time, however, die hard and dedicated public health officers have perforce to acquire some of the patience attributed to Job. Concerted attempts have, for example, been made to persuade butchers to experiment with the discontinuance of sawdust on the floors of their shops as suggested by the Code of Practice, but the degree of success so far achieved has been negligible.

Notices were served in respect of the following items:—

Absence of wash hand basins	...	8
Insufficient supply of hot or cold water	...	8
Absence of towel, nailbrush, or soap	...	8
Absence of First Aid Kit	... ..	9
Structural defects	... ..	12
Defective sinks	... ..	5
Cleansing required	... ..	9
Decorations found to be necessary	...	13
Display of food on open counter	...	4
Insufficient clothing lockers	... ..	5
No 'Hand Washing' Notices	... ..	6
No 'Smoking Prohibited' Notices	...	4
Defective floor covering	... ..	2
Inadequate W.C. accommodation	...	1

94

Unsound Food

Details of food unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered to the Health Inspectors, excluding meat condemned at slaughterhouses, appear in the following table.

	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Ozs.</i>	
Meat	14	1	17	6		
Fish	1	1	24	9 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Milk		2	13	9 $\frac{3}{4}$	+ 19 $\frac{5}{8}$ pints	
Cream			5	11		
Tinned and Frozen Meat	11	1	4	3 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Tinned and Frozen Fish	3	2	9	9 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Spaghetti			10	5		
Soup		2	4	14 $\frac{3}{4}$		
Cakes and Pastry		1	12	6		
Vegetables	10	1	25	1		
Fruit	10	1	16	9 $\frac{1}{4}$		
Cheese			16	4		
Pudding			17	10		
Syrup			3	15		
Preserves		2	14	4		
Biscuits and Bread			4	12 $\frac{3}{4}$		
Sugar			8	0		
Sauce			4	15		
Jam and Marmalade		3	9	7		
Table Jelly				4		
Gravy Browning				8 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Coconut		1	—	—		
Butter and Fat			25	8		
Flour			13	—		
Chocolate			1	2		
Coffee				14		

	<i>Tons Cwts. Qrs. Lbs. Ozs.</i>				
Baby Food				1	11
Tea					4 $\frac{1}{4}$
Pasta				8	—
Beef Extract				5	8
Seasoning					2
Pies			1	4	10
Rice				2	—
Vinegar	—	—		—	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ Pints
Mousse				17	—
Scone Mix					10
Pastes					13 $\frac{1}{4}$
Total	2	16	1	25	8

Meat Inspection at Slaughterhouses

The total number of animals slaughtered for food in the District was 17,694, showing an increase of 777 over the previous year and representing the highest figure ever recorded in my Annual Reports. Satisfaction may be obtained from the knowledge that every carcase was inspected by the Health Inspectors, but in view of the time at which slaughtering takes place this achievement is attained only by inspection outside normal office hours not only on weekdays but also on Sunday evenings.

The time is ripe for the introduction of legislation to control hours of slaughtering and to prohibit the removal of carcases until inspection is effected.

An analysis of the types of carcases inspected, of the amount of meat condemned as unfit for consumption, and of the reasons for condemnation, appears in the following tables:

TABLE I
CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED
IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	<i>Cattle Excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Horses</i>
Number killed (if known)	67	210	354	4,827	12,236	—
Number inspected	67	210	354	4,827	12,236	—
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	1	3	22	2	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	20	30	6	171	543	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	29.85%	14.7%	2.5%	3.9%	4.45%	—
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	2	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	1	—	—	311	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	1.5%	.47%	.56%	—	2.54%	—
<i>Cysticercosis</i>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	3	3	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	3	3	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE II.

REASON FOR CONDEMNATION AND WEIGHTS OF PARTS
CONDEMNED OTHER THAN THAT SHEWN IN TABLE I.

					Pounds
Abscesses	...	...	...	...	233
Angioma	...	...	...	...	143
Adhesions	...	...	...	...	100
Bruising	...	...	...	...	974
Cysts and Parasites			...	...	132
Cirrhosis	...	...	...	...	185
Emaciation	...	...	...	...	426
Emphysema	...	...	...	...	8
Fatty Change	...	...	...	...	22
General Oedema	...	...	...	...	151
Malnutrition	...	...	...	...	279
Milk Spot	...	...	...	...	1,617
Necrosis	...	...	...	...	5
Pyæmia	...	...	...	...	129
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	225
Pleurisy	...	...	...	...	32
Pericarditis	...	...	...	...	7
Peritonitis	...	...	...	...	7
Swine Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	116
Septicaemia	...	...	...	...	40
Telangiectasis	...	...	...	...	669
					<hr/> 5,500

= 2 tons 9 cwts. 12 lbs.

TABLE III.

WEIGHT OF MEAT CONDEMNED

			<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>
For Tuberculosis	...		1	10	—	21
For Cysticerci	...	...				26
Other Causes	...	...	2	9	—	12
			<hr/> 3	<hr/> 19	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 3

Slaughterhouses Act, 1958

Report to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

A report was submitted to the Minister regarding

- (a) The slaughtering needs of the District.
- (b) The condition of existing slaughterhouses and plans for modernisation and extension to certain premises.
- (c) The slaughtering potential of slaughterhouses in the District, taking into account item (b) above.
- (d) A date which was considered appropriate for the full application of the Construction Regulations to slaughterhouses within this particular district. The date suggested was 1st January, 1961, which was accepted by the Ministry.

Of the six registered slaughterhouses three were closed voluntarily by their owners in view of the considerable amount of work required to meet the requirements. The remaining three owners submitted proposals for extensions which were considered adequately to meet the slaughtering needs of the District.

The detailed report was accepted without amendment by the Ministry and following the implementation of the numerous requirements and suggestions made by the Health Inspectors it may be said that 1960 marked a great step forward in the attainment of considerably higher standards of hygiene as regards premises in which animals are slaughtered for food.

A considerable proportion of the Inspectors' time was surrendered to the important task of advising the owners and their architects on the modernisation and redesign of these three slaughterhouses. In one case the owner was prepared to carry out extensions on such a scale that the premises may be considered to have been virtually rebuilt. The fullest co-operation was received from the owner and the Inspectors' comments and recommendations were enthusiastically received and implemented to such effect that these premises, complete with chiller, freezer, cutting room, slaughtermen's changing room, mess room, order office and Meat Inspectors office may be considered to be one of the best privately owned slaughterhouses in the County.

It is pleasant to record what may be achieved by a spirit of mutual good-will and limitless co-operation on both sides.

Slaughter of Animals Acts 1933-54

Twenty-five Slaughtermen's licences were issued in the year,

SECTION F

INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1960

	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Poliomyelitis Para.		Measles		Pneumonia		Dysentery		Erysipelas		Puerperal Pyrexia	Food Poisoning		Paratyphoid Fever		Acute Encephalitis Infective	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F	M	F
Quarter																					
March ..	33	38	29	45	—	—	13	20	3	4	1	4	—	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
June ..	16	21	41	48	—	—	5	7	—	—	6	1	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
September ..	11	18	28	32	—	—	20	17	—	—	4	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
December ..	12	11	18	19	—	—	211	188	1	1	9	18	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	72	88	116	144	—	—	249	232	4	5	20	26	—	2	12	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases admitted to Hospital	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1960

	<i>Causes</i>					<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
All causes	349	319	668
1. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	—	—	—
2. Other forms of tuberculosis	—	1	1
3. Syphilitic disease	1	—	1
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	2	2
10. Malignant neoplasm of stomach	9	11	20
11. Malignant neoplasm of lung and bronchus	28	6	34
12. Malignant neoplasm of breast	—	20	20
13. Malignant neoplasm of uterus	—	7	7
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	35	33	68
15. Leukaemia and aleukaemia	5	—	5
16. Diabetes	1	3	4
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	29	44	73
18. Coronary disease, angina	98	57	155
19. Hypertension with heart disease	5	5	10
20. Other heart disease	20	36	56
21. Other circulatory disease	11	13	24
22. Influenza	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia	15	15	30
24. Bronchitis	26	10	36
25. Other disease of respiratory system	2	4	6
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	4	5	9
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	5	2	7
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	4	—	4
30. Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	—	1	1
31. Congenital malformations	3	3	6
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	29	34	63
33. Motor vehicle accidents	6	2	8
34. All other accidents	7	4	11
35. Suicide	6	1	7
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES DURING 1960

<i>Age Group</i>				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Under 1	...	...	...	21	15	36
1—2	...	...	...	1	1	2
3—5	...	...	...	2	—	2
6—15	...	...	...	5	2	7
16—24	...	...	...	3	1	4
25—34	...	...	...	8	5	13
35—44	...	...	...	11	8	19
45—54	...	...	...	23	16	39
55—64	...	...	...	67	40	107
65—74	...	...	...	90	86	176
75—84	...	...	...	88	103	191
85 and over	...	...	...	30	42	72
Total				349	319	668

TUBERCULOSIS

Notification of New Cases

<i>Age Group</i>				<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		<i>Total</i>
				<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	
Under 1	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
1—2	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
3—4	...	...	...	—	1	—	—	1
5—14	...	...	...	1	1	1	—	3
15—34	...	...	...	5	7	1	4	17
35—44	...	...	...	1	4	1	1	7
45—54	...	...	...	—	2	—	—	2
55—64	...	...	...	2	1	—	—	3
65 and over	...	...	...	1	1	—	—	2
				10	17	3	5	
Total								35
				27		8		

Other additional cases of Tuberculosis

<i>Reason for addition to Register</i>				<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		<i>Total</i>
				<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	
Change of residence				25	26	—	2	53

